

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15
NSC-05 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 MCE-00 L-03 OMB-01 /059 W
-----007026 232301Z /62

P R 232140Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6727
INFO DA WASHDC//DAMO-SSA
DOD WASHDC//ISA/DSAA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ//SCSA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8540

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EC
SUBJECT: CHAPARRAL/VULCAN SURVEY TEAM

BEGIN SUMMARY: CHAPARRAL/VULCAN (C/V) SURVEY TEAM COMPLETED ITS WORK AND DEPARTED ECUADOR DECEMBER 22. TEAM LEADER IS CARRYING COMPLETED DRAFT OF REPORT AND WILL MAIL TO DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY. PROMPT REVIEW AND DELIVERY OF THE REPORT TO THE ECUADOREANS WITHIN OUR 3-4 WEEK DEADLINE, MAY BE SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF MEETING OUR BROADER POLICY GOALS FOR ECUADOR. SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT IS INCLUDED FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION. BASED ON THESE, EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT USG WILL DETERMINE THAT SYSTEM IS ADEQUATE FOR ECUADOR, AND WE RECOMMEND THAT REPORT BE ACCOMPANIED BY A FIRM OFFER TO SELL THE C/V SYSTEM TO THE GOE. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ASSIST IN EXPEDITING ISSUANCE OF REPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. SURVEY TEAM HAS COMPLETED ITS WORK ON SCHEDULE AND HAS ROUGH DRAFT OF FINAL REPORT. COL SHELTON WILL HANDCARRY DRAFT TO FT BLISS, TX ON DEC 22 AND WILL THEN MAIL IT TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN DEPARTMENT OF ARMY FOR STAFFING OUT. EMBASSY REMINDS DEPARTMENT OF COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE
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FINAL REPORT IN 3-4 WEEKS AFTER TEAM LEAVES. LTC WM HUSKEY, MLO ARMY REP IN QUITO, WILL BE IN WASHINGTON AREA DURING PERIOD 7-12 JAN. HE COULD HANDCARRY FINAL REPORT UPON HIS RETURN AND ALSO WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION REF THE SURVEY.

3. OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN OUR DEADLINE MAY SERVE OUR

BROADER INTERESTS HERE. HIGH RANKING ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE (FAE) OFFICERS HAVE TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT FAE COMMANDER, GENERAL LEORO, IS ATTEMPTING TO BRING THE MATTER TO A CONCLUSION BY JANUARY 15. THEY SAY THAT THE FRENCH AND BRITISH HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED THEIR OFFERS. THEREFORE THE ABSENCE OF INFO CONTAINED IN SURVEY REPORT BY 15 JAN 77 WOULD PUT US SYSTEM AT A DISADVANTAGE COMPARED TO EUROPEAN SYSTEMS. US SYSTEM IS BY FAR THE MOST ECONOMICAL AND LEAST SOPHISTICATED OF THE THREE (WE UNDERSTAND THAT UK SYSTEM WOULD COST DOUBLE AND FRENCH SYSTEM FOUR TIMES THE PRICE OF C/V), AND IF ECUADOR MUST HAVE AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, IT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR UNIVERSAL ARMS TRANSFER POLICY AS WELL AS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD ANDEAN PROBLEMS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO MAKE THE MINIMUM CHOICE AS REPRESENTED IN THIS CASE BY U.S.

4. FOR INFORMATION OF ADDRESSEES, THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF SURVEY TEAM'S FINDINGS IS PROVIDED:

A. CHAPARRAL/VULCAN IS SUITABLE FOR DEPLOYMENT WITHIN ECUADOR. IT CAN BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED BY THE GOE AGAINST THE MOST LIKELY THREAT (DAYLIGHT, LOW ALTITUDE ATTACK) FOR CLOSE-IN PROTECTION OF VITAL ASSETS, E.G., AIR BASES AND THREE GROUND BRIGADES.

B. FORWARD AREA ALERT RADAR (FAAR) IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR DEPLOYMENT TO ECUADOR. IN CONDUCTING THE FAAR FEASIBILITY STUDY, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE TEAM DETERMINED THAT THE CAPABILITIES OF THE AIR DEFENSE RADAR SYSTEM ECUADOR PLANS TO PURCHASE ARE SO EXTENSIVE AS TO NOT WARRANT A SUPPLEMENTAL RADAR SYSTEM.

C. TEAM FINDINGS CONSIST OF THREE ALTERNATIVES WITH DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS FOR EACH ALTERNATIVE.

1) ONE BATTALION OF 24 CHAPARRALS AND 24 VULCANS WITH SUPPORT. OPTION ONE: DEPLOY TO PROVIDE MINIMUM PROTECTION FOR SIX AIR BASES. OPTION TWO: DEPLOY TO PROVIDE MINIMUM PROTECTION FOR THREE CRITICAL GROUND BRIGADES. OPTION THREE: DEPLOY TWELVE CHAPARRAL AND TWELVE VULCANS TO PROVIDE MINIMUM PROTECTION TO THREE MOST IMPORTANT AIR BASES, AND TWELVE CHAPARRAL AND TWELVE VULCAN TO PROVIDE MINIMUM PROTECTION TO THE BRIGADE HQ OF THREE CRITICAL GROUND BRIGADES.

2) TWO BATTALIONS WITH TOTAL OF FOURTY-EIGHT CHAPARRALS AND FOURTY-EIGHT VULCANS. OPTION ONE: ALLOCATE ONE BATTALION TO ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE (FAE) FOR PROTECTION OF UP TO SIX AIR BASES, EITHER MINIMUM PROTECTION FOR ALL SIX OR DESIRED PROTECTION FOR THREE BASES; ALLOCATE ONE BATTALION TO PROVIDE MINIMUM PROTECTION FOR THREE ARMY BRIGADES. OPTION TWO: DEPLOY

ONE AND ONE-HALF BATTALIONS FOR AIR BASE DEFENSE, WEIGHING DEPLOYMENT TO PROVIDE DESIRED PROTECTION TO THREE MOST CRITICAL BASES AND MINIMUM PROTECTION TO OTHERS; ONE-HALF BATTALION ALLOCATED TO THREE ARMY BRIGADES TO AFFORD MINIMUM PROTECTION TO BRIGADE HQ. OPTION THREE: DEPLOY 48 CHAPARRALS AND 24 VULCANS TO PROTECT SIX AIR BASES AT THE DESIRED LEVEL; DEPLOY 24 VULCANS TO THREE ARMY BRIGADES, THUS PROVIDING SOME DEGREE OF PROTECTION.

3) THREE BATTALIONS WITH TOTAL 72 CHAPARRALS AND 72 VULCANS, PLUS SUPPORT. OPTION ONE: ALLOCATE ONE BATTALION TO FAE AND ONE BATTALION TO THREE GROUND BRIGADES; FROM THIRD BATTALION, ALLOCATE 18 CHAPARRALS AND 4 VULCANS TO FAE AND SIX CHAPARRALS AND 20 VULCANS TO GROUND BRIGADES. CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS OPTION PROVIDES DESIRED LEVEL OF PROTECTION FOR SIX AIR BASES AND THREE GROUND BRIGADES. OPTION TWO: DEPLOY AS IN OPTION ONE ABOVE, BUT WITHHOLD 6 CHAPARRALS AND DESIGNATE THEM AS FLOAT ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT. THIS OPTION PROVIDES DESIRED LEVEL OF PROTECTION FOR SIX AIR BASES AND SLIGHTLY LESS THAN DESIRED COVERAGE FOR THREE GROUND BRIGADES.

D. ABOVE ALTERNATIVES DEFINE MINIMUM PROTECTION AS FOUR CHAPARRALS AND FOUR VULCANS. DESIRED PROTECTION IS DEFINED AS A COMBINATION OF CHAPARRAL AND VULCAN AS DETERMINED BY SURVEY TEAM BASED ON THE NATURE OF THE DEFENDED TARGET.

E. SURVEY TEAM BELIEVES ALTERNATIVE TWO, PURCHASE OF TWO BATTALIONS, AS THE MOST VIABLE SINCE IT WOULD PROVIDE EACH MAJOR SERVICE WITH SUFFICIENT ASSETS TO ADEQUATELY PROTECT CRITICAL UNITS/LOCATIONS AND AFFORD SOME DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY FOR FUTURE DEPLOYMENTS AND TROOP DISPOSITION.

F. TEAM PROPOSES THAT OIL FIELDS BE PROTECTED BY CURRENT GOE AIR DEFENSE ASSETS, E.G., 40 MM GUNS AND QUAD .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT OF STATE COORDINATE WITH DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY TO INSURE PROMPT AND THOROUGH STUDY OF TEAM REPORT AND EARLIEST TRANSMISSION OF FINAL TO EMBASSY FOR TRANSMITTAL TO GOE. WE RECOMMEND THAT REPORT BE ACCOMPANIED BY A FIRM OFFER TO SELL THE C/V SYSTEM TO THE GOE. BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: MASS, EC
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